



AMERICAN SAMOA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

P.O. Box PPA

Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799

TOGIOLA T.A. TULAFONO
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FAOA A. SUNIA
Lt. Governor

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Information Release Authorization Form

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

- ☒ **Newspaper**
- ☒ **Radio/Television**
- ☒ **Public Notice**

Attached is an Information Release issued by our office (AS-EPA). We would like to ask your assistance in making this information available to the public immediately, via your broadcasts or news publications. For additional information, kindly contact the AS-EPA Director, Fanuatele Dr. To'afa Vaiaga'e, or Tumau Lokeni Iese, Environmental Awareness & Education Program Manager at 633-2304. Fa'afetai tele lava.

- ☒ Governor's Office, Tapuitema
- ☒ Director, Department of Public Information (KVZK-TV)
- ☒ Malama TV Channel 4 News
- ☒ Samoa News
- ☒ Samoa Post
- ☒ KHJ FM 93.1 Radio Station
- ☐ WVUV V103.1 Radio Station
- ☒ KSBS FM92.1 Radio Station
- ☒ KNWJ FM104.7 Radio Station

Approved by: _____

Fanuatele Dr. To'afa Vaiaga'e
Director, AS-EPA

Date: _____

2/15/11

Description:

Title/Heading:

Tafuna Scrap Metal Yard (TSMY) Gas Cylinder Disposal Operations



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PRESS RELEASE

Tafuna Scrap Metal Yard (TSMY) Gas Cylinder Disposal Operations.

In collaboration with the Governor, Honorable Togiola T.A. Tulafono, USEPA and AS-EPA has worked diligently to ensure that safety measures are in place for the successful disposal and removal of hazardous materials – gas cylinders at the Tafuna Scrap Metal Yard (TSMY). The Governor was very supportive in securing specialist from USEPA to assemble a team made up of local and federal HazMat personnel to complete the removal and disposal project. Upon completion, the Governor's intent is to return this parcel of land back to the Port Administration for future airport expansion.

In order to complete the hazardous materials – gas cylinder disposal work at the Tafuna Scrap Metal Yard (TSMY) that began in December of 2010, the U.S Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Region 9 Emergency Response Section will return a team of hazardous materials (Hazmat) specialists to the Territory on February 14, 2011. The team will remain on Island for two weeks to complete the project.

AS-EPA Director Fanuatele Dr. To'afa Vaiaga'e stated, that the team will be focusing on completing the neutralization of hazmat gas cylinders at the TSMY in Tafuna. According to Dr. Vaiaga'e, hazmat gas cylinders at the TSMY include Anhydrous Ammonia, Chlorine, and Asbestos Containing Materials and if they are not handled properly they can be very hazardous to human health, safety and the environment.

USEPA Region 9 Emergency Response Section based in San Francisco, California initially sent a team of Hazmat Specialists in December of 2010, to begin the neutralization work and it now returning to complete this process. The team is being led by On Scene Coordinator (OSC) Christopher Weden and assisted by USEPA and assisted by USEPA Region 9 OSC Christopher Reiner, USEPA Environmental Response Team member Duane Newell, and members of the United States Coast Guard (USCG) Pacific Strike Team. Dr. Vaiaga'e state that the team will be working in conjunction with our local Hazmat first responders from the DPS-Fire Hazmat, and AS-EPA Air & Land Division. This arrangement will bring valuable hands-on training experience to our local hazmat team.

Notifications were given to nearby public and private schools to inform them of the hazards and surrounding these types of operations, advising principals and staff to notify

their students not to venture near or into, the TSMY Compound until existing hazards have been mitigated. Dr. Vaiaga'e would like the public to know that all health and safety measures have been taken into account to ensure the safe handling and disposal of hazardous materials at the TSMY site.